

## TANDY ANNOUNCES XENIX 3.2 FOR 6000/16 PRODUCT LINE

Tandy recently pre-announced XENIX 3.2, the third major release of the XENIX System III operating system for the Tandy 6000 and Model 16/16B systems. XENIX 3.2 was "pre-announced" at the Tangent Conference in Ft. Worth Tx. on April 27th, 1987 by Kent Roberts, the Product Buyer for the Tandy 6000 line. XENIX 3.2 contains numerous performance and functional enhancements as well as code corrections that resolve problems reported to Tandy since XENIX 3.1.0 was released. This is information that was made available at the Tangent Conference, but since the product is still being tested, some changes may occur. The official announcement and release date are expected in August.

### ANNOUNCED HARDWARE SUPPORT

XENIX 3.2 supports both 10 and 20 megabyte Iomega Bernoulli Disk Cartridge Systems (26-1245, 25-4064). Cartridges may be formatted while XENIX is running.

XENIX 3.2 supports the High-Resolution Graphics Upgrade (26-4104), allowing 640x200 monochrome graphics to be displayed on the console. Several new I/O calls have been added to allow for fast screen updates.

With necessary hardware modifications, XENIX 3.2 will allow the installation of up to 7 megabytes of 68000 memory. The extra memory is available for program execution, not just for swapping or caching as in some third-party add-on systems. Tandy representatives claimed that tests showed that most systems will see a dramatic performance increase with only 2 megabytes of memory. Tandy has developed an adapter card that fits into the 68000 CPU socket which provides the additional circuitry necessary to allow up to four megabytes to be utilized by existing CPU cards. This adapter requires minor modifications to the 68000 CPU board. Older versions of XENIX will continue to run with the changes installed. The price of the adapter and installation was not announced, but it was rumored to be under \$150.

XENIX 3.2 allows up to 9 users to be logged-in at once. XENIX 3.2 is said to cure past problems with characters being lost at high baud rates, and no hardware modifications are needed.

### ANNOUNCED SOFTWARE IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS

In the event of a power failure or other system crash, XENIX 3.2 will reboot automatically, clean the system and return the system to operating condition. The system administrator will receive mail of what action was taken by XENIX while rebooting. The system administrator can also disable this feature or limit it to certain types of reboots. XENIX 3.2 also makes considerable efforts to record the reason for a reboot. Numerous other functions have been added to help the administrator keep better track of the system. I/O processor error messages are now recorded in /usr/adm/messages.

After twenty minutes of inactivity, the console screen now darkens to prevent screen burn-in. Pressing any key restores the contents of the screen.

Floppy diskettes can now be formatted while XENIX is running. Both single-sided and double-sided floppies can be formatted in the XENIX double-density or IBM 3740 single-density format.

The screen editor (vi) and two new command shells (csh, csh10) are provided with the core release.

A user-friendly mail system is to be included that handles local and UUCP-networked mail. The screen editor (vi) or the line editor (ed) is used to prepare mail before it is sent.

XENIX 3.2 "knows" about the change in Daylight Savings Time laws that went into effect this spring. In addition, the system administrator can reprogram the way DST is calculated. This allows the system to keep accurate time regardless of where the machine is located in the world or the local regulations. XENIX 3.2 also allows the system administrator to make minor adjustments in the system clock if it runs slow or fast.

A wide range of internal performance enhancements were made to the system which make it faster and more reliable than any previous version. These changes include a speed increase in system call handling and streamlined MMU management. Nearly every I/O driver has been rewritten to provide improved disk response and reliable serial communications.

By pressing a function key at the boot prompt, the system will automatically boot as though it is unattended, clean the root file system (if needed) and enter multi-user mode.

Init has been modified to display (via the ps command) a detailed status for each line that is enabled but not logged in. This information can help the system administrator locate hung modems, faulty cables, etc.

Two new utilities improve printer support by allowing the print-queue to be displayed and allowing jobs to be removed from the queue.

Two new utilities, w and qps, provide additional information on system activity.

A new utility, cfg, allows the system administrator to specify the number of cache buffers and other system parameters that the system will allocate when restarted. Previously, a configuration disk was required to change these parameters. An automatic mode is also provided that allocates resources based on how much memory is installed in the system.

A new utility, idle, allows the system administrator to have users logged off automatically if they exceed a selected amount of time without performing any operations. The time for dial-in lines can be set differently than that for direct-connect lines.

There are numerous other minor improvements in the 3.2 upgrade.

A new System Administrator's Guide is to be published as well as documentation on the new utilities and replacement pages for pages that have outdated information.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

An upgrade to the development system is said to be under development at this time which contains an improved compiler and new libraries, as well as corrections for problems encountered in earlier versions. No release date for the development system upgrade was announced, nor were any additional details released. [PC]